



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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Receipts of fresh and frozen fishery products at Seattle during 1940 totaled 60,975,000 pounds, including imports from British Columbia and coastwise vessel arrivals from Alaska, according to the annual summary released today by the Seattle Market News office, Fish and Wildlife Service, United States Department of the Interior.

This represents a 4 percent increase as compared with the 1939 receipts of 58,418,700 pounds. Of the total receipts, halibut and salmon together contributed 71 percent during 1940, and the same in 1939. Halibut, with 36 percent of the total receipts in 1940, led all other species, with salmon a close second, contributing 35 percent to the total.

Prices paid the fishermen for products landed at Seattle increased materially during 1940, as compared with 1939. Although the halibut fleet landings at Seattle during 1940 indicated a decrease of over one million pounds in halibut receipts, the fishermen received nearly \$200,000 more for the 1940 landings than they did in 1939. An increase of nearly two million pounds of halibut landed at Prince Rupert in 1940 by United States vessels accounted for the decrease in Seattle landings. A 1940 price average of 10.3 cents per pound for halibut sold over the Seattle Fish Exchange represented an increase of 18 percent as compared with the 1939 average of 8.7 cents per pound.

Total receipts of fresh fishery products at Seattle during 1940, exclusive of imports from British Columbia and vessel arrivals from Alaska, totaled 52,671,000 pounds, for which the fishermen received \$4,157,500. This represented an increase of 8 percent in quantity and 15 percent in value as compared with 1939. Principal increases were noted in receipts of "sole," chinook, and chum salmon. The otter-trawl fleet landings of 4,483,000 pounds of "sole" at Seattle during 1940 indicated an increase of 29 percent. This is one of the fastest growing fisheries in the Pacific Northwest and has developed into a fleet of 75 vessels, principally during the past 5 years.

An important development in the Pacific Northwest fisheries during 1940 was noted in the further utilization of dogfish livers and soupfin shark livers as a source of vitamin A. The fishery for dogfish in Puget Sound had been exploited in 1937 and 1938, when Seattle dealers offered fishermen 5 to 6 cents per pound for dogfish livers to be used in fortifying sardine oil. However, these prices were withdrawn in April 1938, and the fishery remained dormant until June 1940. At that time a price offer of 5 cents per pound encouraged fishermen again to enter the fishery. During the balance of 1940, dogfish liver receipts at Seattle totaled 320,000 pounds, for which the fishermen received \$18,316.

The development of the fishery for soupfin sharks was also noted in 1940, when Seattle receipts of livers totaled 11,800 pounds for which the fishermen received an average of 74 cents per pound. During 1940, fishermen received over \$260,000 for total fish livers and viscera delivered to Seattle.

During 1940 the Pacific Coast halibut season opened on April 1, and the quota of 49,000,000 pounds was completed on September 26, which resulted in the shortest halibut season to date. The final date for halibut fishing during 1939 was on October 28. A continual growth of the halibut fleet, as well as improved conditions in fishing, contributed materially to the early closure of the 1940 season.